United Nations S/2000/872

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 September 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 13 September 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach the text of a communication dated 13 September 2000 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to me.

I should be grateful if you would have it brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-64414 (E) 150900 150900

Annex

[Original: English]

Letter dated 13 September 2000 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force (SFOR). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (13 July-12 August), there were approximately 22,300 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the NATO allies and from 15 non-NATO countries. Troops of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations in the theatre by ground and air patrols. Operations included area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the Entity Armed Forces, conducting weapons storage site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre, and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest.

2. SFOR troops continued to monitor compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), which prohibits the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, by providing an intensified presence on the ground in order to enforce the embargo. No violations were reported.

3. On 25 July, 6 rocket-propelled grenades were fired at the Joint Commission Observer house in Zvornik (Multinational Division (MND) North). SFOR troops immediately responded to the incident and secured the scene. There were no injuries. A suspect was arrested on 2 August.

4. Over the reporting period, SFOR troops also continued to monitor the movement of controlled petroleum products into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by establishing traffic control points. No violations were reported.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

5. The situation in the theatre remained calm and stable, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. The reporting period was marked by a series of demonstrations, largely peaceful, related to evictions carried out to allow the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes. In Brcko (MND North) on 13 July, approximately 350 Bosnian Serbs demonstrated over proposed evictions in the town. On 17 July there was a similar demonstration by Bosniacs near Bocinja Donja (MND North) in protest at previously announced evictions in the town. Two roadblocks were set up and subsequently dismantled by local police, and the demonstration ended peacefully. Over the period from 24 to 26 July, however, there was serious civil disorder in the village of Janja (MND North) in connection with the planned eviction of Bosnian Serb families. Despite sporadic incidents of grenade and stone throwing, the situation was brought under control and the demonstrators dispersed. On 29 July, around 2,000 Bosniacs demonstrated near the Orthodox church in Tuzla (MND North) in protest at the earlier demonstrations in Janja. The demonstration ended peacefully after about one hour.

6. Over the period, SFOR troops conducted 97 military weapons storage site inspections. No violations were reported.

7. SFOR troops monitored 1,182 training and movement activities: 661 Bosnian Serb, 308 Bosniac, 90 Bosniac Croat and 123 Federation.

8. On 5 August, SFOR troops supported the International Police Task Force in conducting weapons inspections in several municipal buildings, including the police administration building, in Vares (MND North). Various documents and items of equipment were removed for further analysis. The situation remained calm throughout the operation.

9. Over the reporting period, SFOR monitored 409 mine-clearing operations carried out by the Entity Armed Forces.

Cooperation with international organizations

10. Within capabilities, and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Police Task Force, the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the Office of the High Representative, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

11. SFOR continues to support the Office of the High Representative in the establishment of joint institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following the meeting on 29 June of the Standing Committee on Military Matters, work has continued on the reduction and restructuring of the Entity Armed Forces.

12. SFOR support to OSCE for the municipal elections, which will be held on 11 November, will include the provision of pre-election supervisor training, a rapid response capability, enhanced security environment, limited equipment support, exchange of liaisons and 24-hour joint operational centre staffing, at both SFOR and OSCE.

Outlook

13. Sporadic low-level violence, including against SFOR and the international community, is likely to occur in connection with the return of displaced persons and refugees.